

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-03 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-07

SCI-06 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 PA-04 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 AGR-20 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 CEA-02 STR-08

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DRAFTED BY NEA/TUR:RSDILLON:EF

APPROVED BY NEA/TUR:RSDILLON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SNAR, TU

SUBJECT: THE GROWING OF OPIUM IN TURKEY

FOLLOWING IS AN EXCERPT FROM CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, DATED
MARCH 19, 1974:

BEGIN QUOTE THE GROWING OF OPIUM IN TURKEY. THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE (MR. ROSE). UNDER A PREVIOUS ORDER OF THE
HOUSE, THE GENTLEMAN FROM NEW YORK (MR. RANGEL) IS
RECOGNIZED FOR 10 MINUTES.

(MR. RANGEL ASKED AND WAS GIVEN PERMISSION TO REVISE AND
EXTEND HIS REMARKS.)

MR. RANGEL. MR. SPEAKER, MOST OF THE MEMBERS OF THE
HOUSE ARE AWARE THAT NOT TOO MANY YEARS AGO THE STREETS
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OF NEW YORK AND THE MAJOR CITIES THROUGHOUT THIS COUNTRY

WERE PLAGUED WITH THE HIGHEST QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF HEROIN THIS COUNTRY HAD EVER SEEN. THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE THEN BUREAU OF NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS WE WERE ABLE TO DETERMINE THAT APPROXIMATELY 80 PERCENT OF THIS DRUG WAS THEN BEING GROWN IN TURKEY AND PROCESSED IN FRANCE. AFTER MANY MONTHS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY AN AGREEMENT WAS FINALLY REACHED BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENT AND THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT WHEREBY TURKEY WOULD BAN THE PRODUCTION OF OPIUM. THIS CONGRESS THEN

AWARDED 35.7 MILLION DOLS. TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT THE TRANSITION OF GIVING UP THE GROWING OF THIS CROP BY THE TURKISH FARMERS WOULD BE MADE EASY, AND WE WOULD PROVIDE NOT ONLY ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, BUT THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NECESSARY FOR THOSE FARMERS TO BECOME ENGAGED IN A SUBSTITUTE CROP.

RECENTLY IT WAS AIRED IN OUR NEW YORK PAPERS, AS WELL AS PAPERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, THAT THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED THAT THEY WOULD NO LONGER BE BOUND BY THAT AGREEMENT, AND INDEED WOULD RESUME THE GROWING OF POPPIES.

THE GENTLEMAN FROM NEW YORK, CONGRESSMAN LESTER WOLFF AND MYSELF, THEN TOOK OFF FOR TURKEY ON WEDNESDAY OF LAST WEEK IN AN EFFORT TO DETERMINE THE FACTS AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THE GOVERNMENT WAS ACTUALLY GOING TO BREACH WHAT WE CONSIDER TO BE A BINDING EXECUTIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THOSE TWO GOVERNMENTS. WE WERE MET WITH A GREAT DEGREE OF HOSTILITY BECAUSE IT WAS THOUGHT THAT THIS GOVERNMENT HAD PLACED THIS BAN ON THE PEOPLE OF TURKEY WITHOUT ANY DEGREE OF SENSITIVITY FOR THE PLIGHT OF THE TURKISH FARMERS.

TODAY I WILL BE SHARING THIS SPECIAL ORDER NOT ONLY WITH OTHER COLLEAGUES BUT WITH MY COLLEAGUE, THE GENTLEMAN FROM NEW YORK (MR. WOLFF), AS WE TRY TO STATE FOR THE RECORD THE PERILOUS POSSIBLE CONFRONTATION THAT THESE FRIENDLY NATIONS MAY HAVE. THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT THE AGREEMENT TO IMPOSE THE POPPY BAN WAS ENTERED

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INTO BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENT AND A MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY. WHILE THERE IS NO QUESTION WITH THE PRESENTLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT THAT AGREEMENT IS BINDING, THERE IS SOME QUESTION AS TO THE EQUITY AND THE FAIRNESS OF THE AGREEMENT BECAUSE OUT OF THE 35.7 MILLION DOLS. WE STILL ARE HOLDING 20 MILLION DOLS. IN ESCROW. ALSO, SEVERAL MONTHS WHEN THE POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS IN TURKEY WERE IN FULL SWING, ALL OF THE SEVEN POLITICAL PARTIES

PROMISED THE TURKISH PEOPLE AND, MORE SPECIFICALLY, THE TURKISH FARMERS, THAT THEY WOULD REMOVE THE BAN ON THE GROWING OF POPPIES.

SO NOW WE FIND THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT FACED WITH THE COMMITMENT THAT THEY MADE TO THEIR PEOPLE, AND AT THE SAME TIME RECOGNIZING THAT IN THE LONG END OF A NEGOTIATING TUNNEL THE ONLY TOOLS THAT WE HAVE IN THE U.S. CONGRESS ARE TO ENFORCE THE AMENDMENT THAT WAS MADE TO

THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT. IT STATED THAT WHEN THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES FINDS THAT ANY NATION IS NOT COOPERATING WITH OUR EFFORTS TO CURTAIL THE INTERNATIONAL FLOW OF DRUGS, HE IS MANDATED TO CUT OFF BOTH FOREIGN AND MILITARY AID TO THAT COUNTRY.

MR. SPEAKER, THE GENTLEMAN FROM NEW YORK AND I FOUND OUT THAT THE POPPY IS NOT CONSIDERED TO BE A POISON BY THE PEOPLE OF TURKEY BECAUSE THE IDEA OF ITS MISUSE IS FOREIGN TO THEIR CONCEPT BECAUSE FOR CENTURIES THEY HAVE USED THAT PLANT AS A STAPLE, THEY HAVE USED IT FOR OIL, FOR FLOW, INDEED, FOR SEASONING.

THE AGREEMENT DID NOT TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE FACT THAT WHILE THE MILITARY TURKISH GOVERNMENT WAS ALWAYS CONCERNED WITH THE ILLEGAL GROWING OF POPPIES, THAT IT WAS CONSIDERED NOT TO BE IMMORAL FOR THE FARMERS, IN ADDITION TO THE POPPY CROP THAT THEY HAD GROWN FOR THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT, TO BE ABLE TO HAVE ALSO ADDITIONAL POPPIES THAT THEY WOULD SELL RIGHT IN THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITY.

WE NOW FIND OURSELVES WITHOUT HAVING REALLY DONE ANY-
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THING TO CHANGE OR TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE TURKISH OPIUM FARMERS.

WE DO FIND TURKEY ITSELF INDICATING THAT AT SOME FUTURE DATE THEY MAY CONSIDER RESUMING IN WHOLE OR IN PART THE OPIUM CROP. WE BELIEVE THAT, IN ORDER FOR THE PEOPLE THAT ARE GOING TO BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THIS DECISION SINCE THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT THE FRENCH CONNECTION WILL BE BROKEN IN ANY WAY, IF THEY START TO RESUME THE POPPY GROWING. WHAT IS NECESSARY AT THIS TIME IS THAT THE NATION AND THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT THROUGH ITS STATE DEPARTMENT PLACE THIS ON THE HIGHEST FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRIORITY TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT WE AVOID THE COLLISION THAT THESE TWO FRIENDLY NATIONS WOULD HAVE.

IT IS NOW APPARENT THAT THERE WILL NOT BE A SPRING PLANTING, BUT BECAUSE OF COMMITMENT MADE BY THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT TO ITS FARMERS, IT IS CLEAR THAT PLANS ARE UNDERWAY FOR THE RESUMPTION OF FULL SCALE PRODUCTION BY THE FALL AND CERTAINLY NEXT SPRING. IT MAY BE THAT BECAUSE OF WHAT IS NOW CONSIDERED TO BE A TOP TURKISH PRIORITY IN THEIR DOMESTIC EFFORTS TO SHOW THEIR INDEPENDENCE OF ALL NATIONS, INCLUDING THIS ONE, OUR ONLY TOOL WILL BE THE SEVERE TOOL TO CUT THE MILITARY AND ECONOMIC TIES THAT THESE TWO NATIONS HAVE ENJOYED FOR MANY DECADES.

(TABLES 1 THRU 3 ARE OMITTED).

MR. SPEAKER, I NOW SHOULD LIKE TO YIELD TO MY DISTINGUISHED COLLEAGUE, THE GENTLEMAN FROM NEW YORK (MR. WOLFF).

MR. WOLFF. I THANK THE GENTLEMAN FOR YIELDING.

MR. SPEAKER, I WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CONGRATULATE THE GENTLEMAN FROM NEW YORK (MR. RANGEL) FOR HIS EFFORTS ON THIS RE
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OPIUM, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AGREEMENTS, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, AGRICULTURAL CONTROLS, SPEECHES, CODELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE058008
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RSDILLON:EF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740062-0578
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740321/aaaaatxy.tel
Line Count: 186
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 JUL 2002 by elbezejf>; APPROVED <10 DEC 2002 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE GROWING OF OPIUM IN TURKEY FOLLOWING IS AN EXCERPT FROM CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, DATED
TAGS: SNAR, TU, US, (RANGEL, CHARLES B)
To: ANKARA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005